

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of the Strategic Director – Business Transformation to the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION COMMITTEE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL 3 – 29th July 2008

PROVISION OF DOG & PEST CONTROL SERVICE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Update on the review of the future provision of the Dog Warden and Pest Control Services. Both Services have been advertised for contractors interested in providing them under contract and the results of the tender submissions are being compared to the cost and service levels of the current in house services in reports being submitted to executive members and cabinet.

2. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Panel:
- 2.1 Consider and note the report contents.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The report put to Members in December 2007 detailed the issues relating not only to the provision of the existing Dog Warden Service but also the new requirement from April 2008 to take over the complete responsibility for stray dogs out of hours which is currently shared with the police.
- 3.1.2 The decision at the December meeting concluded that there was a need to provide further details on how to provide both parts of the service with an emphasis on identifying if partnership working could be carried out with neighbouring authorities.
- 3.1.3 A further report was submitted to the OSC on 6th March 2008 detailing that both the dog control service and the pest control service were to be advertised in terms of private contractors expressing an interest in terms of tendering for the provision of these services. The results of these tenders would then be compared under the principles of best value against the current in house provision and be reported to executive members / cabinet as appropriate in terms of determining how they wish to see the services provided in the future.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 Both the dog and pest control services have now been advertised asking for expressions of interest from contractors who wish to tender for the provision of these services.
- 3.2.2 2 tender quotations for the dog service were received and 5 for the pest control service (however only 2 of the pest tenders were correctly submitted and therefore acceptable under the councils tendering rules). Each of the valid tenders has been assessed and compared against a matrix which examines not only cost but value for money in terms of the level and quality of service offered

3.2.3 The results of these assessments with comparisons of the costs and levels of service of other options available in providing the service , primarily retaining the service in house have been put into reports which are currently being put before executive members for there consideration.

3.2.4 The report relating to the provision of the dog warden service has been to corporate management team and executive board and is due to go to cabinet on 22nd July. Dependant upon the decision made by cabinet members there are additional costs related to several of the preferred options which will need potential funding through the supplementary estimate process.

3.2.5 The report relating to the provision of the pest control service is to be submitted to corporate management team and executive board shortly. Dependant upon the decision made by executive members there are additional costs related to several of the preferred options which will need potential funding through the supplementary estimate process.

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 The cost of providing full dog warden and pest control services needs to be tested in the market place and compared to the current in-house provision to ensure that the Council receives a high quality service which is the best value for money.

4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 Not to improve the dog warden service by providing an out of hour's service may leave the Council open to challenge for not complying with its legal duties.

4.1.2 Not to provide a cost effective pest control service may leave the Council open to challenge for not complying with its legal duties.

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 Financial implications are being considered as part of the reports being submitted to cabinet and executive members.

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 None at present but issues of tendering to be dealt with as part of recommended actions.

6. **Other Implications**

a) Equalities: Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been conducted? No – Implicit within process of tender and reviewing service.

b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None

c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None

d) Human Resources: Future issues as part of possible contractor taking over service – to be addressed as part of tendering process.

e) Human Rights: None

f) Other: None

7. **Alignment to Council Priorities**

- 7.1 Building safer and stronger communities.
 - Tackling anti-social behaviour.
 - Ensure our services are delivered in a fair and equitable manner.
 - Promote a sense of community belonging and pride.
 - Contribute to improving the health of people who live in Breckland Council.
- 7.2 Prosperous communities
 - Protect and enhance our town centres
- 7.2 Entrepreneurial Council
 - Ensure the Council manages its resources well and delivers value for money.

8. **Ward/Community Affected**

- 8.1 District wide service issue.

Background Papers

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Commission 6 March 2008 – Provision of Dog Control Service.

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Commission 13 December 2007 – Provision of the Dog Control Service.

Lead Contact Officer:

Name/Post: Mike Wheatley Head of Environmental Health

Telephone: 346

Email: mike.wheatley@breckland.gov.uk

Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

This is not a key decision.

Appendices attached to this report:

[List]